



THE WRAP

Round 10

Round 10 saw an exceptional team performance from the U14 Girls who notched up their third consecutive win. Both U11 teams and both U13 teams showed great depth in these age groups as they all enjoyed solid wins. The U14 Comets and U15 Jets also did well. As we break for the holidays, it's a great opportunity to rest up and prepare for the run home to the finals.

Itai Alford celebrated his 50th game bagging 5 goals



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Around the grounds





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Around the grounds



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Results

U8 Rockets

This week's game represented all that is good about junior footy. A fantastically run club in East Malvern, condensed ovals, great camaraderie between the teams and quality football skills on display. It didn't start so well for some. While the venue was rather favourable to those who live north of Dandenong Road (finally) it might have been cleverer to have the kids sleeping at the grandparents in Caulfield another week.. Nonetheless, with that obstacle overcome, we turned up to see three immaculate ovals ready for the Rockets to ply their trade. The Knights were 4 players short, while we had 5 extra. Moments later we had 4 of ours due to play the first quarter on the pine with their jumpers turned inside out and fronting up for the opposition. One might say we had Rockets off into the (k)night(s). This continued throughout the match, with most of our bench becoming our opponents. The kids seemed to relish the concept, realising this meant a full game this week, and perhaps more enjoyably giving them an opportunity to take on some of their mates in a friendly, yet competitive environment. Some of the bigger tackles and more outrageous evasions occurred between 'teammates', and the crowd seemed to lap it up. The game itself ended up being a humdinger and while no-one keeps scores, it was clear it was tight and hotly contested until the last siren.

U8 Stars

There was a spring in the steps of the boys as they made their way into the Toorak park oval complex. They saw a big electronic scoreboard, and even though we had played here before, they knew we were entering the big leagues. The pre-game warm up was undertaken with great gusto, as the team realised we were a few boys out and therefore needed everyone to lift to rise to the challenge. Rousing speeches by team captains Harley and Zac lifted the boys and off we went in the first quarter. The stars managed two terrific first quarter goals by Sam and first-time goal kicker Amiel. This set up a great pace for the team. Some further inspirational words by Coach Adam and Assistant coach and runner Jamie were well received and the boys fiercely played a great game of football. The boys are looking forward to the break, taking time to regroup as a team and come back in 2 weeks invigorated and ready to finish off the season in style.

U9 Rockets

The U9 Rockets were back home this week against an undermanned Oakleigh. Led out by their captains Gelfand and Kave, the boys were focused on getting off to a good start. The first quarter ended up being a scrappy affair but then the Rockets started to get on top for the rest of the day. Maller and Levy attacked the ball hard and Krasnostein was a tackling machine all day. There were some great pieces of linking play where the ball moved end to end with some smart handballs and precision passes. Raleigh constantly found the ball and Kalb had some attacking runs. Sher took a nice mark on a lead and kicked truly and Smorgon showed courage backing back into a pack to take an overhead mark. The coaches asked the boys to finish strongly before the school holiday break and the boys responded well. Gelfand made sure the ball stayed in our forward line for most of the 3rd quarter and Hyams last quarter was full of intensity. It's great to see that there is starting to be a real spread of contributors each week and boys improvement and ability is there for all to see. Everyone is looking forward to the school holiday break before coming back to finish the season strongly.



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Results

U9 Stars

The U9 Stars ventured away from home to their arch nemesis in Prahran. Captain Wynne and Rechtman focused on working together, having fun and being hard at the ball. With World Cup fever hitting the team, the first quarter was highlighted by amazing goals from Krause and Kolliner. Luke F and Wynne did really well to capture and trap the ball to kick it long and forward. The second quarter saw a controlled and strong commitment to manning up with Weiss and Roff teaming up for many power moves into the forward line. After the half time break, the defensive pressure was intense and it was a tight tussle with Beebee and Banky boys coming into the action. Another strong quarter by Krause saw his rewards being dumped in the mud along with Balter and Onas full focused on the prize to be first at the ball. The last quarter saw a committed team effort with everyone contributing and really starting to get it and gel together in ways beyond their maturity. Hot dogs with the opposition team ended the game nicely and highlighted the true comradery against this evenly matched Prahran team.

U10 Rockets

For the third time this year, the Mighty U10 Rockets came up against their fierce rivals, Prahran. The last encounter was a nail biter at Princes Park, so we were all expecting another tough game against a determined opponent at their home ground. This game did not disappoint. From the opening bounce, this was contest between two teams who wanted the ball. Both teams fought hard to gain the early ascendancy and it was the Rockets that struck first and through hard work playing disciplined smart football, our boys once again belted out the song with great pride. This is a team that stands together as one. They look after one another and fight hard to represent this great Ajax jumper with pride and respect. We are all so proud of how they continue to evolve into this incredible team. No one will ever tire listening to our Mighty U10 Rockets get together in the rooms post game and belt out "Who are we... where are we.... We're the boys of Ajax Football Club "

U10 Stars

In near perfect football conditions (well, compared to last week that is), the Ajax Stars took on new rivals Port Melbourne. Unlike the last time the teams met, this was an arm wrestle from start to finish. It was a battle between two very even teams. Port Melbourne were up for the fight and our boys dug deep and gave as good as they got. It certainly wasn't a game for "show pony" theatrics with neither team giving the other room to manoeuvre. It was all about hard tackling, hard running and pressure. The coaches were thrilled to see that the Stars came into today's game carrying the same fantastic mindset from the previous week.



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Results

U11 Rockets

Ajax 6.19 (55) def East Brighton 2.0 (12)

Goals: Gunn 2, Lakman 2, Krasnostein, Rothfield

Best: Cabelli, Cohen, Gunn, Krasnostein, Lakman, Rubin

After a bit of a reality check last week, we needed a good performance before the 2 week break for school holidays. We demanded that the boys go in really hard today, be first to the ball and when we get it use it well. Our captains, Jake Mehl and Toby Mooseek went into the middle for the traditional toss of the coin. The first quarter started well with our players first to the ball and going in exceptionally hard. When Bailey Rothfield marked and kicked the goal it looked like we were in for a big win. At quarter time the boys were told to keep cracking in hard but to really focus on composure when kicking for goal. It had been a very congested game with the Vampires playing an extra man in defence. We asked the boys to try and stay in their positions a bit more and have less players at each stoppage to allow the game to open up a bit. Despite a great effort from Jason Brott taking on 3 Vampires the team from East Brighton kicked the first of their 2 goals for the quarter (and match). The remainder of the quarter was played in our forward half with much better kicking as Lakman and Gunn got our goals while we still managed to put through 4 behinds. Lakman faced a solid elbow to the head toward the end of the quarter. The last quarter gave us an opportunity to give a few guys who don't often play in the middle a run on the ball and they did a fantastic job showing how much this team is improving and the options we have.

U11 Stars

Ajax 7.8.50 def St Kilda 6.5.41

Goals: Alford 5, Janover, Zukerman

Best: Alford, Janover, Katz, Micmacher, Shaw, Zukerman

After a great win last week the kids came to the game ready to win! The pre-game warm up session was sharp and the boys were attentive. A number of the players were given specific roles to play and the team structure was reviewed. The first quarter started with St Kilda City kicking the first goal. To the boys credit we kicked the next 2 goals to take the lead. The second quarter was our quarter. We dominated with the ball locked in our 40 metre zone for the majority of the time. With a slender lead at half time we wanted a big third quarter. Again the opposition kicked the first goal of the quarter but we replied immediately and this exchange was repeated. There were a number of 'one percenters' with shepherds, bumps, tap ons, and some great runs out of the backline. At the 3/4 time break the boys were determined to finish the game strong. The Captain today playing his 50th game was Itai Alford. He was a fine leader and he kicked the first two goals of the quarter to put the team in a winning position. Itai was outstanding today kicking 5 goals, 4 behinds. A memorable game.



THE WRAP

Results

U12 Comets

Beaumaris 8.8 (56) def Ajax 4.4 (28)

Goals: Glace, Newett, Rozenes, Sormann,

Best: Casper, Glace, Hart, Newett, Rozenes, Sormann

Our boys started really strong with Jack Hart winning all the hit outs in the ruck going straight to our running midfielders – Rozenes and Gunn – pumping the ball long to give good opportunities to our small forwards. With two goals in the first quarter to Sormann and Rozenes, Ajax looked well and truly in control. In the second quarter the defensive line of Klein and Casper were keeping Beaumaris out of the game while poor kicking – 1 goal to Glace and 3 behinds – kept us from blowing out beyond the 18 point lead at half time. Then in the second half – everything changed. Beaumaris kicked 4 goals 2 behinds in the third quarter and keeping Ajax scoreless. The run looked gone from our boys. Beaumaris were sharing the ball around and finding their targets while Ajax left them unattended and free to run in, lead to open players, and take easy marks. Our defence looked shell-shocked. In the final quarter, Ajax tried harder and seemed to hold up Beaumaris from totally opening the floodgates, but could only score 1 goal to Newett, before Beaumaris piled on another 4 goals to close out the game 28 point winners.

U12 Jets

Highett 6.8 (44) def Ajax 5.3 (33)

Goals: Rheuben 3, Chrapot, Segal

Best: Chrapot, Cohen, Gottlieb, Paneth, Rheuben, Rockman, Segal

In a crucial game in context of the season both teams were desperate for the points in order to stay in touch with the 4 before the school holiday break. The Jets started well by absorbing several Highett thrusts forward and held on to keep them goalless in the initial stages. The Jets were the more efficient in front of goal making more of their opportunities in the first half and went in at half time with a small lead despite a late lucky goal to Highett after the siren. Chrapot, Segal and Rheuben were all very dangerous near goal and all 3 put through vital goals to add scoreboard pressure on the home team. Rheuben especially had a breakout game kicking 3 goals while also adding forward line pressure with great tackles and defensive acts. Josh has worked very hard on his game and the results are showing in spades. So many Jets have taken big steps in 2018 and are starting to impact games due to the strict training regime and added skills and fitness work at home during the week. Paneth was awesome again all day in the middle while Paca and Gottlieb ran hard on the ball all day but it was Chrapot again at CHF and later again in the Ruck that kept the Jets in the game until the very last few moments. Ramel just kept pumping the ball forward all day with penetration while being just as effective in the air as well against a much taller opponent. Well done to the Jets again today and may the improvement continue for the rest of the season.



THE WRAP

Results

U13 Comets

Ajax 6.4 (40) def Hampton 2.8 (20)

Goals: Zielinski 3, Faigen 2, Sigeoker

Best: Faigen, Nathan, Pike, Sormann, Zielinski

The U13 Comets know how precious and hard earned a win is in this strong Division 1. It takes maximum effort from every player and also some standout performances from a few. And that is exactly what the team managed at home on Oval 1 against Hampton, and why the team sang the song in the rooms after the game with such pride and gusto - twice! Undeterred by key absences, the players all knuckled down to do their bit. Smithson and Becker stood strong down back, each making crucial interventions late in the game. Rockman crashed into packs with his usual courage (is there a more inspirational player?), Kister read it well and won plenty of it as always, Mitsel chased and tackled hard all game and Michelson presented ably and strongly throughout. But if the game was to be won it had to start in the midfield, and that is what Pike, Faigen and Nathan took it upon themselves to do. Those three were simply immense for us, again. They are such a strong unit of tough and silky players, and they had ample support from Feder, Nirens, Segman, Joseph and Sigeoker, who formed a wave of support going forward and a strong wall when it went the other way. All that good work in the centre would have counted for nothing, however, if it was not capped off with quality work up forward. Enter Zielinski, who combines class and toughness and is so difficult to match up on. When she was not plucking marks and goaling herself, she brought into the game the busy supporting brigade of Greenberg, Smorgon and Marabel-Whitburn, who kept it in and made sure we maintained a real threat whenever the ball went forward. For the second week in a row Sormann stepped into this team, bringing his pace, skill and tenacity, and this week he also played an important shutdown role which was so important when the game was in the balance. Most pleasingly, there was an increased smartness to our play, with players adopting good positions around the contests and feeding the ball back or outside to maximum effect.

U13 Jets

Ajax 10.5 (65) def St Bedes/Mentone 7.4 (46)

Goals: Cohen 4, Miltz, 2, Jacobs, Roff, Schenk, Worth

Best: Cohen, Jacobs, Lindell, Miltz, Worth

Today's match was a stunning spectacle. After a horrendous second quarter we found ourselves in trouble. Down a few goals, but it looked like it was about to get ugly. Instead of going to the rooms, we had the players stay on the ground and sit as they received a harsh half time address. But despite conceding the first goal of the second half, we responded. It came in the form of incredible physicality and intent. We clawed our way back to a 4 point deficit, and came home strong to win by 19 points. We put a lot of focus on putting the ball to space, so that our quick forwards could run freely into goal, and it worked phenomenally, particularly for Dov Cohen who kicked 4 exhilarating and crucial goals. As was said after the game, it was the sort of win we can build a season off and that's exactly what we intend to do!



THE WRAP

Results

U14 Comets

Ajax 7.12 (54) def Hampton 1.3 (9)

Goals: Siegel 3, H Sheezel 2, Feldman, Wasbutzki

Best: Eliau, Light, Schauder, Siegel, Wrobel

Coming into the match with a bench for the first time in weeks, the Comets jumped out of the blocks with a three goal to nil opening term asserting their authority on the contest straight from the opening bounce. Celebrating his 100th match milestone, Logan Siegel looked ominous early with two goals to his name by quarter-time and another shortly after to take a personal bag of three into the half-time break. The return of the KDS deserters from school camp helped with Oscar Kaye strong down back, Raphy Lighting up the middle and Rothfield dangerous up forward, whilst Aden Green's welcome return from injury and Lachie Eliau's second hit out for the season also gave the Comets some more of that hard edge for which they have become known this season. Things tightened up in the third quarter with huge numbers around the ball making scoring difficult and a quagmire in the centre square slowing ball movement through the middle. Wayward kicking by the Comets saw a number of missed opportunities in front of goal whilst Hampton eventually hit the scoreboard through a lucky long bouncing kick from outside the 40m arc. But with half-backs Schauder, Wrobel & Aladjem impenetrable in defence, midfielders and wingmen Sheezel C & H, Alter and Lowe comfortably beating their opponents and small forwards Siegal, Wasbutzki and Feldman all hitting the scoreboard, the Comets ran out easy winners in a workmanlike but largely unexceptional performance. A big mazel tov to Logan Siegel on 100 games of junior football. An outstanding performance.

U14 Girls

Ajax 4.1 (25) def Caulfield 3.2 (20)

Goals: Cohen, Baron, Barring, Kacser

Best: Y Alford, Amira, Baron, Belfer, Pincus, Slonimsky, Werdiger

The Jackett's recorded their third win in a row in a hard fought and muddy affair at Princes Park. A 3 goal burst in the first quarter set up a lead which was only sacrificed again late in the third quarter in a game that proved increasingly difficult to get a clean ball with space and time to kick. The girls fought hard and with a couple of the regular midfielders out, rotated well through allocated positions to keep up the pace and pressure of the game. The girls snuck back the lead early in the fourth quarter scoring the only goal for that term, and held on to win by a narrow 5 point margin, securing a recently earned position in the top 4. A big congratulations also goes out to coach Chelsea who played her milestone 50th Game today for the senior Jackett's.



THE WRAP

Results

U14 Jets

East Sandringham 6.11 (47) def Ajax 2.2 (14)

Goals: Alford, Biran

Best: Alford, Edwards, Fell, Gaddie, Peleg

Today we were reduced to 18 men at the first bounce and we played on a small field. The opposition where a physically large team and for parts of the game today we struggled through the middle with their size. However when we had the ball in hand there was some great work out of the backline, switching and running and playing on. It was the best we had done for a number of weeks.

Most players were playing in front as directed, in the forward line, Ron, Callum and later Reuben. In the backline Bizza fought really hard and beat his player regularly. Jack swallowed up everything and Tatzi too on the big boys in the opposition and did an amazing job. Also there were some AMAZING defensive efforts, Sabe did a chase down tackle from 30m away. Later Behm and Jack combined for a chase down tackle. Nothing better. When we went forward we looked good however just a lacked a little poise to hit the scoreboard regularly. In the 3rd quarter East Sandy got on top of us and put the game out of reach. However the challenge was thrown down for last. Our best is good enough. Let's bring it and win the last. That came from the opening bounce. And we were desperate and hard.

Laying huge tackles, switching the ball and running. It was GREAT to watch and we won the last when they were expecting the chance to put us to the sword. I am proud of the boys for the way that they fought it out.

U15 Comets

Ormond 15.6 (96) def Ajax 6.5 (41)

Goals: Jacobs 3, Efron, Shostak, Spark

Best: Bergman, Berman, Efron, Mitsel, Nissen

U15 Jets

Ajax 13.14 (92) def Caulfield 3.5 (23)

Goals: Atzmon, Benzur, Goldberg, Katz, Maman, Mond, Paluch, Rostkier

Best: Goldberg, Katz, Kol, Reitberger, Rostkier

With 7 players missing this week we implored the boys that were available to dig deep and step up to continue our winning streak and did they ever. Lead by stand in skipper Aden Katz who set the standards earlier with some gut busting hard running the team stepped up and dominated earlier. Harley Reitberger and Jeremy Goldberg were as always hard at it and dominating the contested possessions. Oren Tobias, revelling his time in the ruck and away from the backline dominated around the ground together with Spencer "Moses" Braby. Charlie Kol was a running machine off the back half and Liam Maman sacrificed his game to nullify the best player in the Caulfield Bears team. Overall was a team effort and we are so proud of this group of boys that have bandied together and are playing as one cohesive unit. Great win today and looking forward to the break to freshen up and hoping that we do not lose the momentum that we have found in the last 4 weeks.



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Results

U16 Comets

Oakleigh 14.13 (97) def Ajax 2.4 (16)

Goals: Schauder, Weeden

Best: Brick, Chrapot, Herskope, Micmacher, Schauder

We welcomed the return of a couple of players (Nick and David) from lengthy injury stints and with the help of a couple of boys from other teams (Josh and Maor), we fielded a team of 20 today. Oakleigh had a strong start and led by 26 points at the first break but a committed effort by the whole team ensued for the second quarter and majority of the third. But for a few unlucky breaks, the scores would have been a lot closer at 3/4 time. As the late afternoon dusk settled over the ground, the boys found it difficult in the last quarter as they began to tire and Oakleigh took some big marks in front of goal. By and large, a solid effort and after freshening up over the next couple of weeks and welcoming back more players from injury, we look forward to the last 5 weeks of the season with renewed energy.

U17 Comets

Baumaris 13.10 (88) def Ajax 8.5 (53)

Goals: Efron 2, Gold 2, Zielinski 2, Bryer, Spicer

Best: Bryer, Krongold, Lincoln, Smart, Zielinski

Tough game against probably the best junior footy team in the SMJFL. With our opposition boasting 7 TAC Cup players, this game was always going to test our players. To their great credit, AJAX took it right up to the boys from Beauy. Our courageous midfield were at their best. Benji Krongold and Lior Smart ran hard, tackled hard and won more than their fair share of contests. Justin Spicer got off to a blistering start and was playing well until a shoulder injury took him out of the game. Aron La Sala worked hard against his towering opposition and Jono Machlin was back to his pre-injury best. Matt Lincoln continues his stellar form with yet another gutsy and skillful display. We've waited a long time to see Aaron Bryer use that massive left foot to pop one through the centre and today was that day. That was just one of his many highlights in a great 4-quarter effort. Kai Gold and Corey Zielinski put in strong performances up forward against a well-drilled defence. Some errant kicking in the first and final quarters proved costly and we couldn't match the Sharks' height around the ground. AJAX will take a lot out of the game and will look forward to our next match in 3 weeks after a well-earned mid-season break.



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